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1. (Currently amended) A portable computing device comprising:
a keyboard controller having a first input for receiving keystroke inputs and
having an output for conveying said keystroke inputs to a main processor; and
a secondary processor having an interface to said keyboard controller through
a secondary bus, said secondary bus also being used to communicate with a battery
module, wherein said keyboard controller also conveys said keystroke inputs to said
secondary processor through said secondary bus, wherein said secondary bus is an
I2C bus.

2. (Claim 2 is canceled.)

3. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 1 wherein said keyboard
controller additionally receives inputs from a graphical pointing device that directs an
indicator to move correspondingly about a computer screen.

4. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 1 wherein said
secondary processor includes an interface to a database that stores a plurality of
names and corresponding contact information.

5. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 1 wherein said
secondary processor includes an interface to a network interface, said secondary
processor executing a World Wide Web browsing function in association with said
network interface.

6. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 1 wherein said
secondary processor includes an interface to a shared audio subsystem.

7. (Currently amended) A method for operating a portable computing device in a low-power mode, comprising:

receiving keystroke inputs by a keyboard controller;

said keyboard controller transmitting said keystroke inputs to a secondary bus, said secondary bus also being used to communicate with a battery module, wherein said secondary bus is an I2C bus; and

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said keyboard controller refraining from transmitting said keystroke inputs to a main processor, thereby operating said portable computing device in said low-power mode.

8. (Claim 8 is canceled.)

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising said keyboard controller receiving inputs from a graphical pointing device that directs an indicator to move correspondingly about a computer screen of said portable computing device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising a secondary processor, which interfaces to said secondary bus, searching a database that stores a plurality of names and corresponding contact information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising said secondary processor communicating with a network and executing a World Wide Web browser function in association with said network.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said secondary processor executes a Java application program.

13. (Currently amended) In a keyboard controller, a method for operating a portable computing device, comprising:

receiving keystroke inputs by a keyboard controller;

determining if said portable computing device should be operated in a low-power mode;

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said keyboard controller transmitting said keystroke inputs to a secondary bus, said secondary bus also being used to communicate with a battery module, wherein said secondary bus is an I2C bus; and

said keyboard controller refraining from transmitting said keystroke inputs to a main processor based on said determining action, thereby operating said portable computing device in said low-power mode.

14. (Claim 14 is canceled.)

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising said keyboard controller receiving inputs from a graphical pointing device that directs an indicator to move correspondingly about a computer screen of said portable computing device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising a secondary processor, coupled to said secondary bus, searching a database that stores a plurality of names and corresponding contact information.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising said secondary processor communicating with a network and executing a World Wide Web browser function in association with said network.

18. (Currently amended) In a portable computing device which executes a power on system test (POST) program, wherein said POST program accesses a data structure resident in a memory element used by said POST program, wherein said data structure includes a plurality of data objects which instruct a keyboard controller to execute a method which comprises:

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and
determining if said portable computing device is to be operated in a low power mode;

said keyboard controller receiving keystroke inputs;

transmitting said keystroke inputs to a secondary bus, said secondary bus also being used to communicate with a battery module, wherein said secondary bus is an I2C bus; and

said keyboard controller refraining from transmitting said keystroke inputs to a main processor based on said determining action, thereby operating said portable computing device in said low-power mode.

19. (Claim 19 is canceled.)

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising said keyboard controller receiving inputs from a graphical pointing device that directs an indicator to move correspondingly about a computer screen of said portable computing device.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising a secondary processor, coupled to said secondary bus, searching a database that stores a plurality of names and corresponding contact information.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising said secondary processor communicating with a network and executing a World Wide Web browser function in association with said network.
